

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application, of which claims 1, 11, 17, and 22 are independent. Claims 25 and 26 have been canceled. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the indication that claims 1-16 and 22-24 contain allowable subject matter.

The examiner rejected claims 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Birdsley et al (US 6,210,981). In response, applicant has amended claim 17 to include the limitation of "monitoring the backside of the semiconductor chip during etching until a portion of the backside over at least one doped well differs from a portion of the backside that is not over the at least one doped well." As described on page four of the office action, this feature is neither described nor suggested by the art of record. Accordingly, claim 17 is believed to be patentable over Birdsley. Claims 18-21 depend on claim 17 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 17.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

All correspondence should continue to be directed to the undersigned at the address shown below.

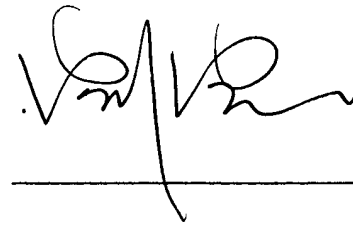
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Respectfully submitted,

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